

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method to combine diversely encoded audio data streams, comprising:

- receiving a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based format;
- receiving a second audio data stream in a pulse code modulated format;
- decoding the first audio data stream into a ~~linear~~ pulse code modulated format;
- ~~obtaining a second audio data stream in a linear pulse code modulated format; and~~
- ~~combining the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio data stream,~~
- ~~utilizing in part a linear pulse code modulated mixer, for receipt by a CODEC.~~
- mixing the first and second audio data streams in the pulse code modulated
- format; and
- encoding the mixed first and second streams in a perceptually based format.

2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising combining the first and second audio data streams using a linear pulse code modulated format. ~~encoding the combined audio data stream into the first perceptually based format before receipt by the CODEC.~~

3 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the act of encoding the mixed first and second combined audio data streams stream~~ into the first perceptually based format comprises encoding ~~the combined audio data stream~~ into an AC-3 format.

4 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the act of encoding the mixed first and second combined audio data streams stream~~ into the first perceptually based format comprises encoding the combined audio data stream into a MPEG-2 format.

Claims 5-9 (Canceled).

10 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein ~~the act of~~ combining comprises mixing the first audio data stream and the second audio data stream to generate a single composite audio data stream.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

12 (Currently Amended). A program storage device, readable by a programmable control device, comprising:

instructions stored on the program storage device for causing the programmable control device to

receive a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based format;
receive a second audio data stream in a pulse code modulated format;
decode the first audio data stream into a pulse code modulated format;
mix the first and second audio data streams in the pulse code modulated

format; and

encode the mixed first and second audio data streams in a perceptually
based format.

~~decode the first audio data stream into LPCM format;~~
~~require a second audio data stream in LPCM format;~~
~~combine the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio data~~
~~stream, utilizing in part a LPCM mixer;~~

~~encode the combined audio data stream into a second perceptually based~~
~~format; and~~

~~transmit the encoded combined audio data stream to a CODEC circuit.~~

Claims 13-23 (Canceled).

24 (New). The device of claim 12, further storing instructions to decode the first audio data stream into a linear pulse code modulated format.

25 (New). The device of claim 24, further storing instructions to encode the mixed first and second audio data streams into an AC-3 format.

26 (New). The device of claim 24, further storing instructions to encode the mixed first and second audio data streams into a MPEG-2 format.

27 (New). The device of claim 24, further storing instructions to mix the first audio data stream and the second audio data stream to generate a single composite audio data stream.
